

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 remain in this application. Claim 11 was previously canceled. Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Independent claim 1 is rejected, along with dependent claims 2-6, as anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,332,356 to Hecht et al. Reconsideration is requested. According to the present invention, the introducing means, which is provided at a peripheral portion of the sub-passage outlet, positively introduces main passage backward flow near the outlet of the sub-passage into the sub-passage through that outlet. It is possible, as a result, to stably introduce the backward flow even if drift of the backward flow is generated, and it is respectfully submitted that the limitations mentioned serve to patentably distinguish the present invention from the Hecht et al. device. Due to the features reflected by currently amended claim 1, the present invention permits accurate measurement without being affected by backward flow drift. It is not an object of the Hecht et al. measuring device to introduce backward flow into a sub-passage, and nothing suggests that such backward flow is stably introduced in the manner required by currently amended claim 1. It is impossible, therefore, to stably measure the backward flow when backward flow drift is generated in the Hecht et al. device.

It is respectfully submitted that, for reasons set forth above, currently amended claim 1 is patentable over the Hecht et al. patent. The rest of the

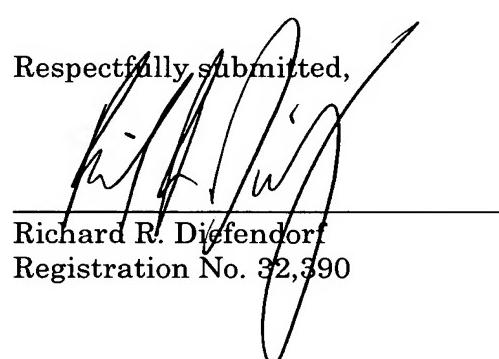
claims in this application are dependent claims and are patentable as well, and the application should now be in allowable condition.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

Please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #056203.50981US).

Respectfully submitted,

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